

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Butler County Courthouse

Other name/site number: _____

205 West Central Avenue

not for publication

El Dorado

vicinity

state Kansas

code KS

county Butler

code 015

zip code 67042

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally X statewide _____ locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkhurst
Signature of certifying official

3/5/02
Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register.

_____ See continuation sheet

_____ determined eligible for the National Register.

_____ See continuation sheet

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register.

_____ removed from the National Register.

_____ other, (explain:)

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Property Name Butler County CourthouseCounty and State Butler County, KansasPage 25. Classification

Ownership of Property

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

No. of Resources within Property

contributing	noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a
multiple property listing.)

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas

No. of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register:

06. Functions or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: County Courthouse7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Foundation STONE: LimestoneWalls BRICKSTONE: LimestoneRoof CERAMIC TILEOther

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more
continuation sheets.)

Property Name Butler County Courthouse

County and State Butler County, Kansas

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1908/1909-1950

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

George P. Washburn & Sons, Architect

Matheim & Walker, Contractor

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Property Name Butler County CourthouseCounty and State Butler County, KansasPage 4**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing
(36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

Library and Archives Division, Kansas
State Historical Society, Topeka,
Kansas; Butler County Historical
Society, El Dorado, Kansas

Record # _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of property <1

UTM References

1	<u>1/4</u>	<u>6/8/9/1/1/0</u>	<u>4/1/8/7/4/7/0</u>	3	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	4	<u>/</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>	<u>/ / / / /</u>

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Dana Cloud and Sally F. Schwenkorganization Historic Preservation Services, LLCdate April 30, 2000street & number 818 Grand Boulevard, Suite 1150telephone (816) 221-5133city or town Kansas Citystate Missouri zip code 64106**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner (Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)name Butler Countystreet & number 205 West Central Avenuetelephone (316) 322-4233city or town El Doradostate KS zip code 67042

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 7 Page 1

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

DESCRIPTION

The Butler County Courthouse is a four-story, masonry structure that occupies the central portion of a full square block to the west of the El Dorado, Kansas central business district [*Figure 1: City Map of El Dorado, Kansas*]. The courthouse shares the block with a detached, "L"-shaped, one- and two-story jail and judicial building erected in 1971 immediately to the southeast of the courthouse. At the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square is a small replica of the "Statue of Liberty" that rests on a rusticated limestone base [*Photograph #1*]. Parking is located at the southwest corner of the square and serves the courthouse and the jail and judicial building [*Figure 2: Existing Site Plan*]. Built in 1908–1909, the courthouse is a late example of the Romanesque Revival style and reflects Classical Revival style influences. The primary façade faces north onto Central Avenue. The building is rectangular in plan and measures 100 feet wide by 70 feet deep by 65 feet high. It has a hipped roof with cross gables, corner towers, and a central clock tower. Indiana limestone ornaments the red brick walls. Except for the replacement of window casements and sashes, reconfiguration of the original courtroom space, and the construction of the 1971 building at the rear of the lot, the courthouse has a high degree of integrity. It retains the majority of its original interior and exterior character-defining elements. Erected in 1908–1909 as a county courthouse, the structure continues to serve as a county courthouse.

The courthouse has five bays on the north and south façades and four bays on the east and west façades. Octagonal corner towers create additional end bays at each façade [*Photographs #2 and #5*]. The exterior of the courthouse is polychrome and composed of several textures. Red brick walls laid in running bond courses rise from a rusticated base of coursed quarry-faced limestone, which is also laid in running bond. Dressed Indiana limestone highlights the first- and third-floor windowsills, the second-floor sill course, and first- and third-floor lintel courses. Decorative brickwork provides texture to the window spandrels [*Photograph #4*].

Fenestration on the ground floor through the second floor consists of single and paired window configurations, while the fenestration on the third floor consists of single, paired and tripartite window configurations (modified serliana or Palladian) with Romanesque arches. Original paired (east and west façades) and tripartite (north and south façades) windows with Romanesque arches remain at the gable ends. New metal-clad, one-over-one light, double-hung sashes and cases replace the building's original wood windows, and glass block encloses some of the ground floor windows on the secondary elevations. While the new windows on the first and upper stories match the original window profiles, the placement of transom panels on the upper portion of the windows differs from the original treatment [*Figure 4: c.1970 Photograph of Courthouse Showing Original Windows*].

The courthouse design features three entrances with pedimented porticos. The primary entrance on the north façade features a two-story, pedimented portico supported by four Ionic columns and topped with a Goddess of Justice statue. A second-floor balcony, which once led from the original courtroom, extends the full 36-foot width of the portico [*Photograph #6*]. Inlaid mosaic tiles spelling "Butler County Court House, 1909" are incorporated into the portico floor [*Photograph #8*]. The east and west elevations feature smaller pedimented porticos supported by two Ionic columns. New metal frame doors with sidelights replace all of the original exterior doors [*Photograph #3*].

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

Red clay tiles cover the cross-gable, hip roof, under which is a bracketed cornice. A 100 foot tall clock tower, which has a hipped roof, bracketed cornice, and four dormers, rises from the center of the roof [*Photograph #12*]. At each corner of the courthouse are octagonal towers that rise the full height of the building and have conical-shaped roofs.

The floor plan of the courthouse is typical of the majority of Kansas courthouses built during the same period. Grade-level entrances at the sides and rear of the building provide access to the ground floor. A handicapped accessible entrance door and elevator is at the east entrance. The grand set of exterior stairs at the north façade provides the primary access to the first floor, which houses the main county offices. Twelve foot wide corridors run east and west and have staircases at each end [*Photograph #7*]. The enclosure of the original courtroom's balcony level and subsequent relocation of office space significantly altered the third floor, which originally housed the sheriff's office and jail.

Interior finishes are also typical of those found in other Kansas courthouses built at the same time. The staircases have exposed iron frames and white marble treads [*Photographs #7 and #11*]. The corridors feature mosaic floor tiles (except the ground floor), white glazed tile wainscoting [*Photograph #9*], quarter-sawn oak doors and trim [*Photograph #10*], and plaster walls with murals by H.H. Mitchell [*Photograph #7*].

In 1971, the county erected the adjacent jail and judicial building to provide modern conveniences for its inmates and relieve overcrowding in the original courthouse. The design and siting of the building are not compatible with the original design of the historic courthouse; nevertheless, they reflect modern 1970s design and may be considered significant as an example of modern courthouse annexes once sufficient time has passed. The "L"-shaped structure is red brick with a stuccoed mansard roof. It houses two district courtrooms, a county courtroom (which replaced the courtroom in the courthouse), and county attorney, probation and sheriff's offices. A one-story wing, which extends along the south side of the original courthouse, houses the jail [*Figure 3: Artist's Rendering of 1971 Judicial Building*].

Despite these alterations of setting and replacement windows and doors, the Butler County Courthouse retains a high degree of integrity. Because of the retention of the character-defining features of the building's original design, original materials, and features that reflect a high degree of workmanship, the building successfully conveys feelings of its period of construction and significance and associations with the contexts established in the multiple property form. In particular, the retention of exterior features such as the masonry, porticos, roofline, clock tower, and "Statue of Justice" figure adds to its significance. Furthermore, the construction of the jail and judicial annex as a separate structure left the exterior of the original courthouse unaltered. On the other hand, the construction of the jail and judicial annex was instrumental in the removal of the courtroom from the second floor of the courthouse. As a result, office space replaced the third-floor balcony level of the courtroom, erasing any vestiges of the original courtroom. Other interior modifications include the reconfiguration of partitions on the second and third floors and the installation of acoustical ceiling tiles. These interior alterations are minor in comparison to the majority of interior features, especially those in the public areas that are intact. Remaining interior features include the ground and first floor configurations, mosaic floor tiles, white glazed tile wainscoting, quarter-sawn oak doors and trim, iron-frame staircases, and plasterwork. Overall, the Butler County Courthouse

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
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not only has excellent architectural integrity, it is also in excellent condition as a result of the care and attention given to the maintenance of the structure by a succession of county commissioners.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

PHOTO LOG

Photographer: Dana Cloud
Date of Photographs: November 18, 1999
Location of Negatives: Kansas State Historical Society
Cultural Resources Division
6425 S.W. 6th Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66615-1099

Photo #	Subject	Camera Direction
1.	Exterior of Courthouse	Southeast
2.	Exterior of Courthouse	East
3.	Detail of West Entrance	East
4.	Detail of South Façade	North
5.	Exterior of Courthouse	Southwest
6.	Detail of North (Main) Entrance	South
7.	Main First Floor Corridor	Southwest
8.	Detail of Ceramic Floor Tile at North Entrance	South
9.	Detail of Ceramic Floor Tile at East Stair Landing	South
10.	Detail of Typical Wood Door at Third Floor	Northeast
11.	Detail of East Stair and Railing at Third Floor	Southeast
12.	Detail of "Statue of Justice" and Clock Tower	Southeast

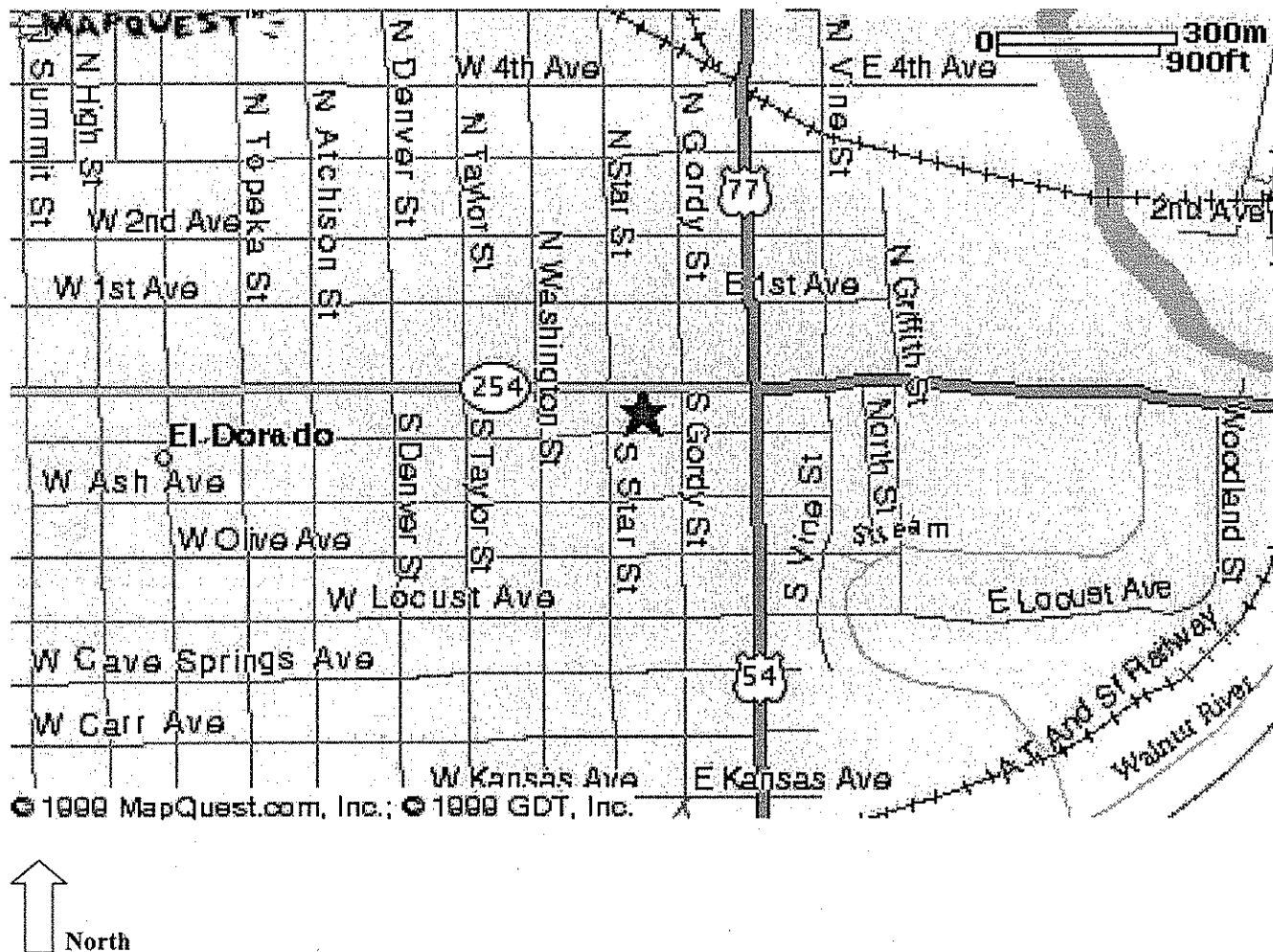
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

Figure 1: City Map of El Dorado, Kansas



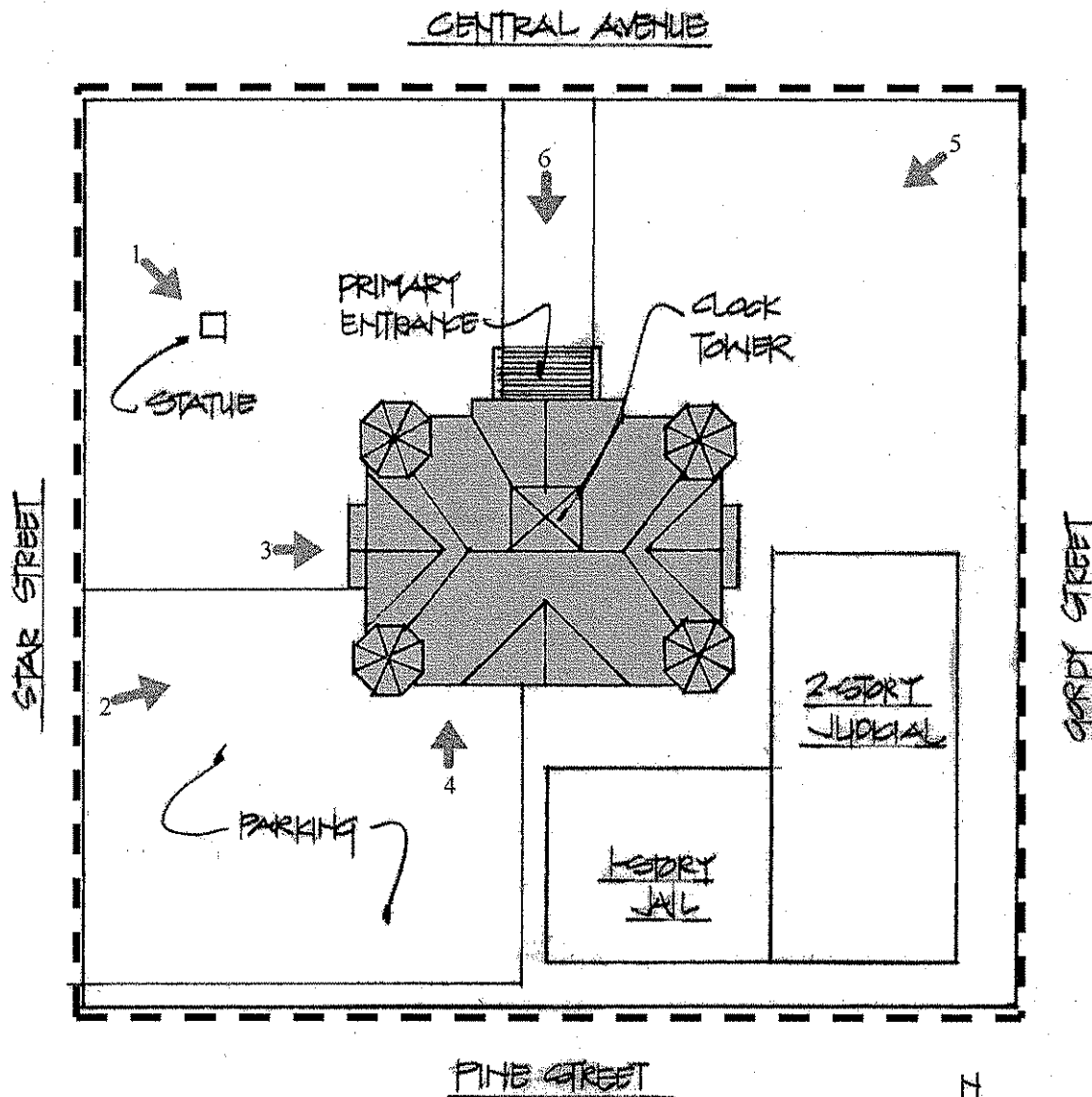
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

Figure 2: Existing Site Plan



Approximate Scale: 1"=60'-0"
--- Boundary Line

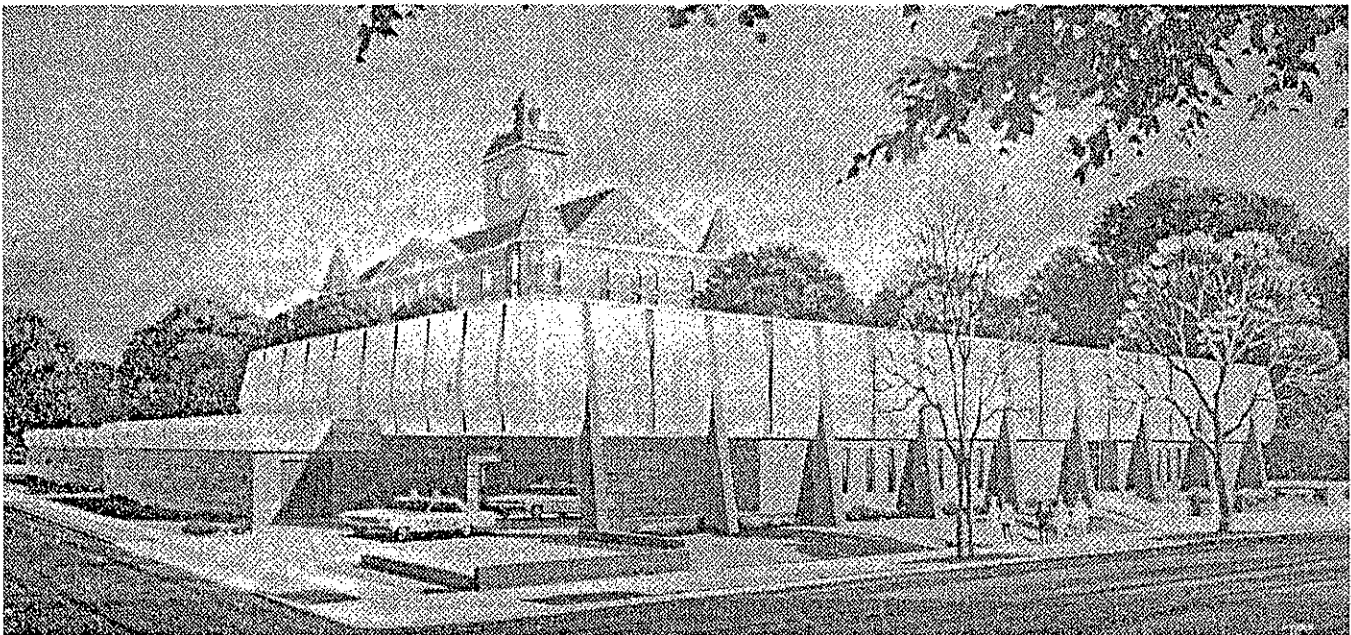
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Butler County Courthouse
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Figure 3: Artist's Rendering of 1971 Judicial Building



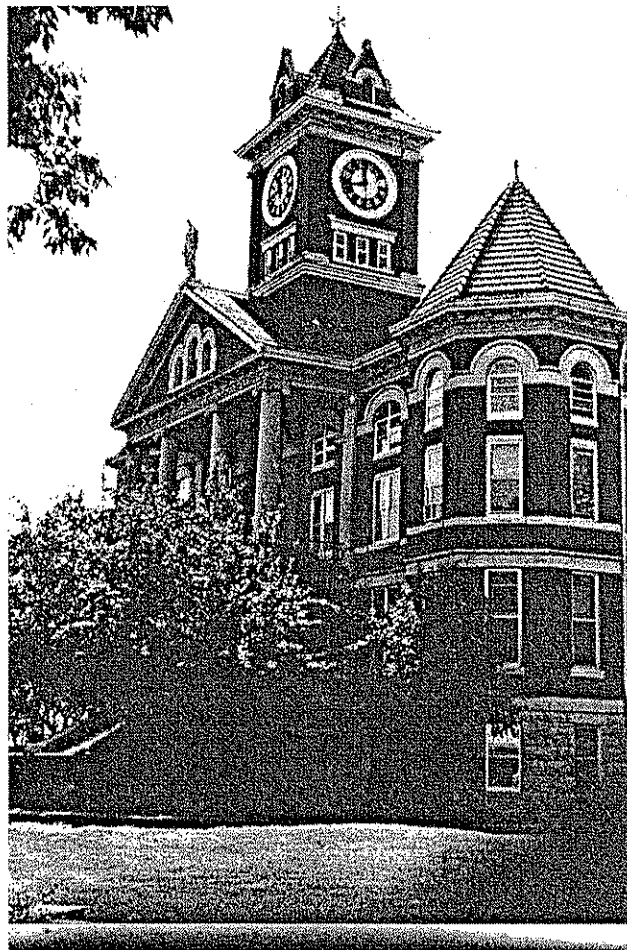
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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
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Figure 4: c.1970 Photograph of Courthouse Showing Original Windows



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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Butler County Courthouse, erected in 1907–1908, is historically significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of **POLITICS/GOVERNMENT** and under Criterion C in the area of **ARCHITECTURE** for its associations with the development of county courthouses in Kansas and with George P. Washburn, an influential Kansas architect who designed and supervised the construction of 13 Kansas county courthouses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The historic significance of the Butler County Courthouse is based on its associations with the history and development of Kansas county courthouses that are documented in the Multiple Property Form, “**Historic County Courthouses of Kansas.**” In particular, the property has direct associations to the historic contexts established in the Multiple Property Form—“The Role of the County Courthouse in Kansas Communities 1856–1950,” “Twentieth Century Kansas County Courthouses and Their Changing Use: 1900–1950,” and the “Architecture of Kansas Courthouses 1861–1950.” The property’s association with the evolution of Kansas County Courthouses and their design dates to its construction in 1907–1908 and continues to 2000, the arbitrary 50-year cutoff date for determining eligibility of National Register properties. The property reflects typical courthouse plans, siting, and design found in Kansas during the first decades of the twentieth century. In addition to retention of association and location, this property has a high degree of architectural integrity and is a representative example of its property type. It exemplifies the work of a master courthouse architect noted for his Kansas courthouse designs. The property type and larger historic contexts relating to the significance of the Butler County Courthouse are fully documented in the Multiple Property Form. The following commentary expands upon these larger contextual themes as they specifically relate to the Butler County Courthouse and documents the property’s significance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND SIGNIFICANCE

Butler County is located in southeast Kansas approximately 30 miles from the Kansas-Oklahoma state line and just east of Wichita. It has several small towns including El Dorado, the county seat; and the communities of Douglass, Latham, Augusta, Benton, Pickrell Corner, Rose Hill, Whitewater, DeGraff and Potwin. Several highways, including Interstate Highway 35, run through the county. Located in northern Butler County, just north of El Dorado, are the El Dorado Lake and State Park.

The first county commissioners of Butler County held their first meeting on April 30, 1859, at the home of George T. Donaldson in Chelsea, Kansas. At this meeting, commissioners P.G. Barret, George T. Donaldson and I.S. White established the location of their offices and future court sessions, which were subsequently held in Chelsea’s town hall. Chelsea served as the first county seat of Butler County between 1859 and 1864, when voters established El Dorado as the official county seat.

After the 1864 election, the county seat moved from Chelsea to the original town site of El Dorado, just over one mile south of present day El Dorado. The county commissioners who lived in Chelsea disputed the change in location and refused to move their offices to El Dorado until a suitable courthouse building was erected.¹ An

¹ Author Unknown, “History of Butler County Kansas and the New Courthouse,” *El Dorado Weekly Republican* (5 November 1909): 6 pages. Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Newspaper Clippings.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
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entry in the commissioner's journal dated July 4, 1864, stated: "Resolved that whereas the county seat has been removed to El Dorado and there is not any building there which can be procured for county offices, such offices will not remove until such building can be procured."²

By 1867, El Dorado citizens still had not erected a county courthouse, and the court authorized a second election to return the county seat to Chelsea. Again, supporters of the El Dorado location prevailed.³ This time, however, the citizens of El Dorado secured a one-room log cabin at the Clarence King Farmstead in Old El Dorado.⁴

In May 1870, a third election occurred and El Dorado again won. By this time, the citizens of El Dorado realized the need to build a more permanent courthouse to secure their future as the county seat. Henry and C.C. Martin deeded the land of the present Courthouse Square in July 1870, and local citizens donated \$2,455 of the \$3,750 required to build a two-story, Italianate style structure. Measuring 25 feet by 50 feet, the limestone courthouse stood on the northeast corner of the present Courthouse Square, facing Central Avenue and extending south along Gordy Street.⁵

As the new courthouse neared completion in 1871, controversy again arose over the location of the county seat. This time, the town of Augusta, located southwest of El Dorado, petitioned for an election to remove the county seat from El Dorado. Although a formal election never took place, a heated battle between the citizens of El Dorado and Augusta ensued. In the end, El Dorado prevailed, forever putting to rest the battle over the Butler County seat.⁶

The county made several additions to the Italianate style courthouse, once in 1875 and again in 1895. By the turn of the twentieth century, the structure was unsuitable for courthouse functions and in 1908, the court ordered its demolition to make way for the present courthouse.⁷ An El Dorado citizen salvaged fragments of the courthouse for a residential garage at 15 South Washington.

A Masonic service celebrated the installation of the corner stone of Butler County's third-generation courthouse on December 3, 1908. A metal box in the cornerstone contains city newspapers and names of county commissioners, architects and builders.⁸ At the left of the main entrance, a rectangular entablature of Indiana stone commemorates the occasion with the following inscription: "This stone was laid by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M. of Kansas, A.D. 908, A.L. 5908. Henry F. Mason, Grand Master."

² Mira Lockwood Brown, "Research Discloses Butler County's First Courthouse Destroyed by Fire in 1885," *Butler County News* (18 April 1957): 216-219. Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Newspaper Clippings.

³ Author Unknown, "History of Butler County Kansas and the New Courthouse."

⁴ Brown, 216-219.

⁵ Author Unknown, "History of Butler County Kansas and the New Courthouse."

⁶ Charlotte Offen, "Augustans Battled El Dorado for County Seat," *Wichita Eagle Magazine* (7 July 1957): 223-226. Kansas State Historical Society, Library and Archives Division, Newspaper Clippings.

⁷ Author Unknown, "History of Butler County Kansas and the New Courthouse."

⁸ R.L. Dickinson, "Butler County Court House," Prepared for the Women's Kansas Day Club, 1948. Butler County Historical Society, Butler County Courthouse Vertical File.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

The architectural firm of George P. Washburn and Sons of Ottawa, Kansas designed the new courthouse. Mathein and Walter Construction of St. Joseph, Missouri received the \$60,000 construction contract. Work began in September 1908 and ended a year later in September 1909. The total cost of the building and site work was \$100,000.⁹

Over the years, alterations and additions occurred to meet the changing needs of the county. County officials authorized installation of a handicap accessible elevator next to the east staircase in 1952¹⁰ and, in 1971, they approved the construction of a detached building to house new courtrooms, offices, and the county jail.¹¹ At this time, the county authorized the enclosure of the balcony level of the original courtroom on the second floor for meeting rooms. Other renovations at this time included installation of new window units and cleaning and repointing exterior masonry.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Butler County Courthouse is a significant under Criterion A for its associations with the second and third generation courthouses erected in a wave of new courthouse construction that occurred in the early twentieth century in Kansas. These buildings replaced aged and obsolete courthouse buildings erected in the state's earlier settlement period. Modern alterations to the site to accommodate new justice and administrative facilities, while not significant at this time, do convey information on the dramatic changes in county programs and physical needs that occurred in the post-World War II time period. Although enough time has not passed to adequately address their functional and design significance, they are representative of the conditions of the time of their construction.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Butler County Courthouse is significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Kansas county courthouses designed by George P. Washburn of Ottawa, Kansas.¹² This courthouse is one of 11 extant Kansas courthouses designed by Washburn between 1897 and 1918. Of these buildings, nine are Romanesque inspired designs.

Washburn's courthouses are typically Richardsonian Romanesque in style and feature red brick highlighted with limestone detailing, rusticated limestone foundations, hip roofs with cross gables, porticos at the primary façade, "Statue of Justice" figures, corner towers, and clock towers or cupolas. The corner towers vary in form from polygonal to circular and are topped with various roof shapes. Semi-circular arches, either elaborate or restrained, often define the third-floor window heads and enrich the stringcourse along the eave. Porticos with flat roofs define primary entrances, which are approached by a grand flight of stairs. Perhaps the most defining feature of Washburn's courthouses are the clock towers and cupolas that top the courthouse roof. Although generally

⁹ Author Unknown, "History of Butler County Kansas and the New Courthouse."

¹⁰ Author Unknown, "The Court House Elevator," (17 July 1952). Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

¹¹ Author Unknown, "New Building Will Adjoin Butler County Courthouse," *Wichita Eagle* (Thursday, 21 May 1970). Kansas State Historical Society, Cultural Resources Division, Vertical Files.

¹² Washburn's importance in Kansas Courthouse design is more fully documented in the Multiple Property Form.

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Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

located in the center of the roof, the clock tower also appears as an extended corner tower. The clock towers and cupolas are elaborately detailed features and range in height, materials, form, and roof shape [*Figure 5: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by Washburn*].

The Butler County Courthouse serves as a representative example of Washburn's Kansas courthouses. The exterior features of the courthouse are characteristic of the Richardsonian Romanesque style designs of Washburn, with the exception of the Classical Revival style, two-story portico at the primary façade. This is a significant variation from the typical Washburn portico, which is generally one story in height and has a flat roof supported by square columns of either brick or limestone, whereas the portico of the Butler County Courthouse has a pedimented roof supported by four Ionic columns. With the exception of this variation, the remaining features of the Butler County Courthouse such as the red brick, rusticated limestone foundation, hip roofs with cross gables, "Statue of Justice" figure, octagonal corner towers, and central clock tower are typical of Washburn's courthouse designs.

The Butler County Courthouse is also architecturally significant for its retention of its original floor plan configuration and hierarchy of space, both of which are typical of many early twentieth century Kansas courthouses. Kansas courthouses of this period are generally defined by three or four floors, which have a hierarchy of functions that are located off a main corridor and accessed by one or more staircases. The ground floor is either at grade level or slightly sunken and houses the auxiliary functions such as the boiler room, facility manager's offices, toilets and storage. The finishes of this floor are often not as elaborate as the upper, more public floors. The first floor, which is the most highly utilized floor, is generally elevated from grade level and approached via an exterior grand staircase. The first floor houses offices frequently utilized by the public such as the county clerk, register of deeds, county treasurer, engineer, appraiser, and county commissioners' offices. The second floor houses the courtroom, judge's office, jury room, and the sheriff and court clerk's offices. The courtroom is nearly always on the opposite side the building from the primary entrance and its the grand central staircase, and is 1½ or two stories in height. The third floor is typically not as obvious from the exterior and is occasionally part of the roofline. This floor historically housed the jail, although many new sheriff and jail annexes replace those functions leaving space to expand in the original courthouse. With the exception of the reconfiguration of the courtroom space, the Butler County Courthouse retains this hierarchy of space and the ground floor and first floor configurations and use.

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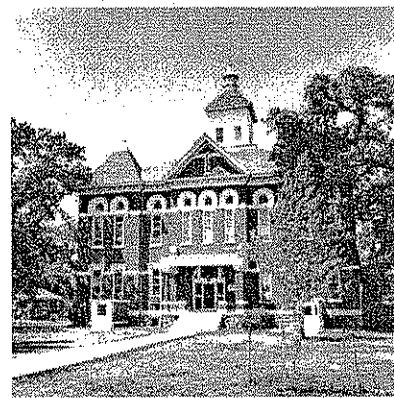
Figure 5: Representative Examples of Kansas Courthouses Designed by Washburn



Franklin County 1891–1893



Miami County 1897–1899



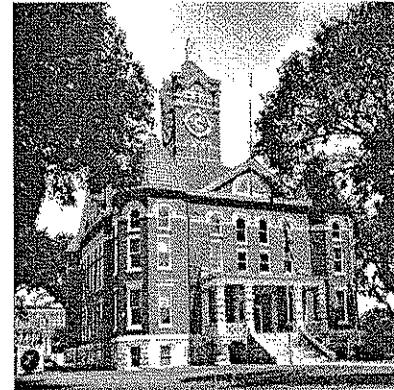
Woodson County 1899–1900



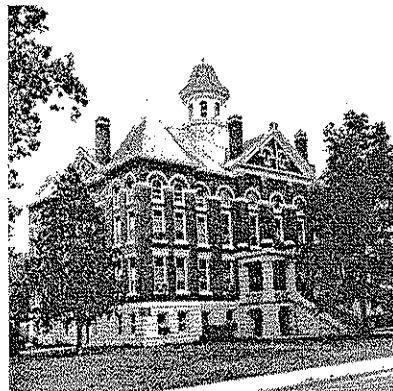
Anderson County 1901–1902



Doniphan County 1905–1906



Harper County 1907–1908



Kingman County 1907–1908



Butler County 1908–1909

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section Number 9, 10 Page 14

Historic County Courthouses of Kansas
Butler County Courthouse
El Dorado, Kansas

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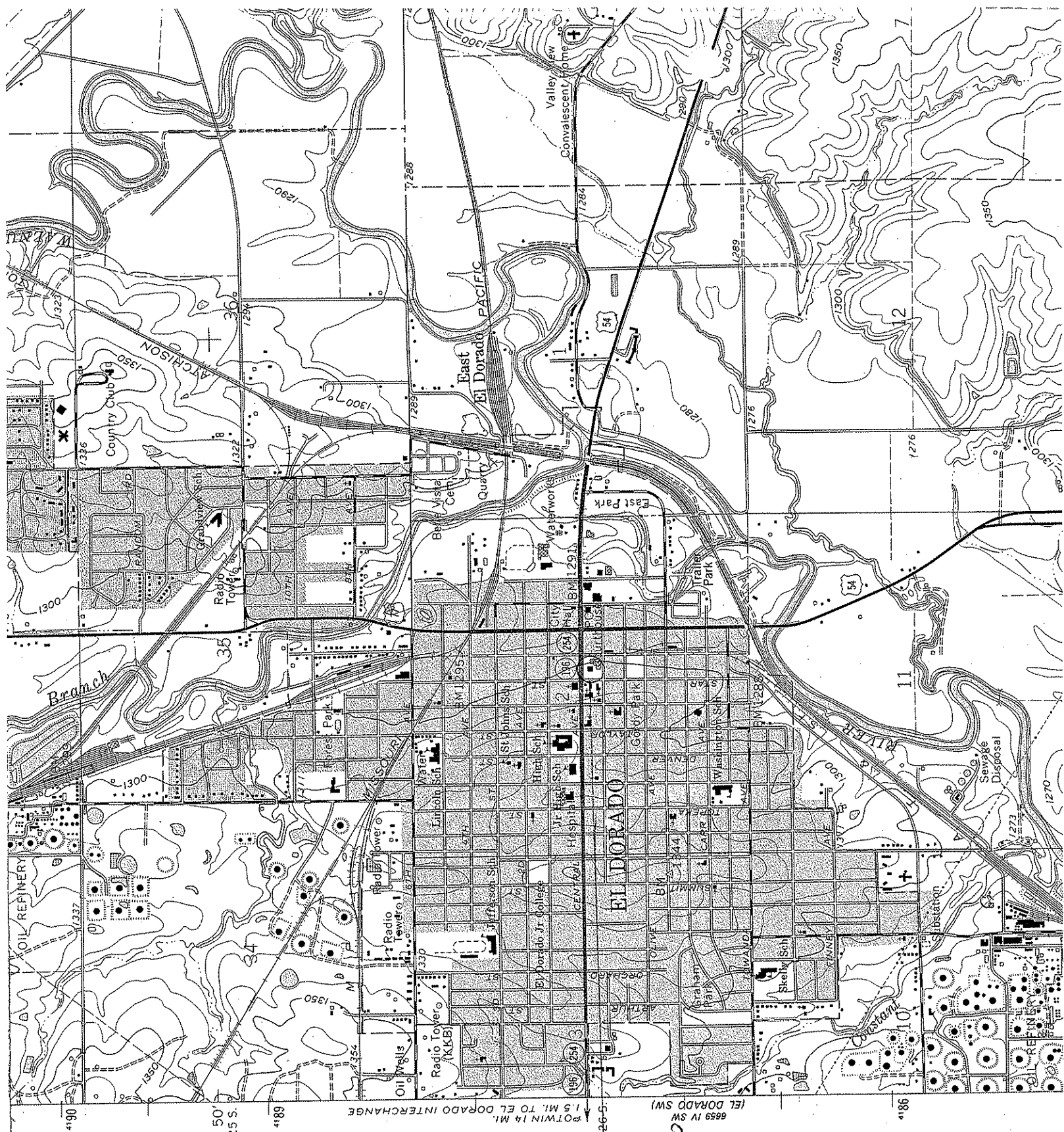
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property includes Lots 1 through 8, Block 3 in the Original Town of El Dorado, Kansas and is bounded by the following: on the south, the northern boundary of Pine Street running between Gordy Street and Star Street; on the west, the eastern boundary of Star Street running between Pine Street and Central Avenue; on the north, the southern boundary of Central Avenue running between Star Street and Gordy Street; and on the east, the western boundary of Gordy Street running between Central Avenue and Pine Street.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the nominated property is based on the entirety of Block 3 for its traditional courthouse function. Natural boundaries are provided by Pine Street, Star Street, Central Avenue, and Gordy Street.



BUTLER COUNTY
COURTHOUSE
EL DORADO,
BUTLER COUNTY,
KANSAS

UTM:
14168910 / 4187470

6659 IV SW (EL DORADO SW)
1.5 MI. TO EL DORADO INTERCHANGE
POTWIN 14 MI.